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Update for the General Assembly First Committee

Committee Overview

Recent Developments

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) First Committee concluded its 70th session in November 2015 after a session with extensive participation.[1] The topics of First Committee meetings during its 70th session included the peaceful use of outer space, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and conventional weapons.[2] Fifty-seven draft resolutions were sent to the GA Plenary for approval, 55 of which were adopted as resolutions.[3]

During its session, the First Committee discussed the potential use of outer space for "military confrontation," and reaffirmed the importance of upholding the commitment to peaceful uses to prevent the weaponization of outer space.[4] GA resolution 70/26 highlights the need for more practical measures to be discussed and implemented to preserve the peaceful use of outer space, and asks Member States with leading space capabilities to contribute their expertise in this area.[5] Building on this, GA resolution 70/27 on "no first placement of weapons in outer space" also encourages renewed efforts to finalize an existing draft treaty on preventing weapons placement in outer space.[6]

In the thematic debate on conventional weapons, the First Committee discussed anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, small arms and light weapons (SALWs), and weapons trafficking.[7] GA resolution 70/29 called on the UN Secretary-General to oversee the implementation of previous resolutions passed on this issue, and asks the international community as a whole to redouble efforts to implement existing regional agreements, including the *Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials*.[8] Focusing more broadly, GA resolution 70/32 recognizes the critical link between disarmament and development, and urges states to renew their commitment to development programs by redirecting "resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development."[9] The resolution resulted after discussions that highlighted the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); many Member States noted that the significant funds supporting arms development and modernization might be better redirected to support the achievement of the SDGs, especially given the link between development and peace and security.[10]

The Committee also discussed efforts to control weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). While GA resolution 70/74 on biological weapons recognized recent successes in monitoring and verification with respect to the *Biological Weapons Convention*, GA resolution 70/41 on chemical weapons and the implementation of the *Chemical Weapons Convention* noted the need for improved measures to combat these weapons and their proliferation, including stockpile elimination and protections against non-state actor acquisition.[11]

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[1] UN General Assembly, *First Committee Sends Last of 57 Drafts to General Assembly at Close of Session After Record Participation in Thematic Debates*, 2015.

[2] UN DPI, *First Committee Sends Last of 57 Drafts to General Assembly at Close of Session After Record Participation in Thematic Debates*, 2015.

[3] UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 70th Anniversary*, 2015.

[4] UN DPI, *Speakers in First Committee Decry Destructive Force of Indiscriminate Weapons While Some Defend Need for National Protection, Approving 11 More Drafts,* 2015.

[5] UN General Assembly, *Prevention of an arms race in outer space (A/RES/70/26)*, 2015.

[6] UN General Assembly, *No first placement of weapons in outer space (A/RES/70/27)*, 2015.

[7] UN DPI, *Speakers in First Committee Decry Destructive Force of Indiscriminate Weapons While Some Defend Need for National Protection, Approving 11 More Drafts,* 2015.

[8] UN General Assembly, *Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (A/RES/70/29)*, 2015.

[9] UN General Assembly, *Relationship between disarmament and development (A/RES/70/32),* 2015.

[10] Article 36, *Discussion on disarmament and development at UN General Assembly First Committee*, 2015.

[11] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/70/74),* 2015; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/70/41),* 2015.

Nuclear weapons were another prominent topic in the 70th session; of the 57 drafts sent to the General Assembly Plenary, 16 were on nuclear disarmament.[12] GA resolution 70/38 noted the importance of implementing NPT Review Conference outcomes of 1995, 2000, and 2010 for the coming 5-year period, especially in light of the lack of a 2015 outcome.[13] Given recent conflicts and escalating tensions, the disarmament of WMDs, particularly of nuclear weapons, in the Middle East was the subject of multiple discussions and two resolutions.[14]

The First Committee also considered the role of disarmament mechanisms themselves, particularly the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and the current deadlock stalling progress.[15] While previous discussions on the topic yielded proposals on expanding the membership of the CD, no concrete steps have been taken to advance this process.[16] The First Committee also welcomed a collaborative approach to security issues in hosting a joint meeting with the Fourth Committee during the 70th session.[17] The joint meeting focused on encouraging more holistic approaches to security and sustainability in outer space, particularly in developing and implementing confidence-building measures to facilitate greater cooperation in these areas.[18]

In addition to work done in its general sessions, many side events were hosted during the First Committee meetings. One side event, "Generation of Change: Encouraging Youth Action for Nuclear Abolition," highlighted the outcomes of the Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition, which was held in August 2015.[19] In addition to presenting the resulting youth pledge from the Summit, the side event raised a number of questions and considerations in engaging youth and civil society in the disarmament programs of the UN.[20] Another key side event was hosted by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the development of a new tool to assist Member States in implementing international guidelines on small arms and ammunition.[21] The International Small Arms and Ammunition Guidance Platform (ISAP) seeks to harmonize different existing guidelines, and also points to the challenges inherent in implementing international agreements and frameworks and how the UN might assist in mitigating these challenges.[22]

The 70th session of the First Committee was a productive one, where Member States broached numerous important topics on international disarmament and security. While the Committee continues to monitor and assist with the implementation of existing frameworks, there remain numerous challenges to international security that require continued deliberation and decision-making.

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[12] UN DPI, *First Committee Sends 16 Drafts on Nuclear Disarmament to General Assembly, Including New One on 'Ethical Imperatives', Following 21 Recorded Votes*, 2015.
[13] UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of the Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/70/38)*, 2015.
[14] UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 70th Anniversary*, 2015.
[15] UN DPI, *Speakers Urge Action on Membership Expansion, Adopting Balanced Work Programme of Disarmament Conference, as First Committee Concludes Debate on Key Forums,* 2015.
[16] Ibid.
[17] UN DPI, *As Fourth, Fifth Committees Hold Joint Meeting, Speakers Stress Need for Holistic Handling of Outer Space Security, Sustainability,* 2015.
[18] Ibid.
[19] UNODA, *First Committee side event on Generation of Change: Encouraging Youth Action for Nuclear Abolition*, 2015.
[20] Ibid.
[21] UNODA, *Side-event on UNIDIR's development of the International Small Arms and Ammunition Guidance Platform (ISAP)*, 2015.
[22] Ibid.

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, November 6). *First Committee Sends Last of 57 Drafts to General Assembly at Close of Session After Record Participation in Thematic Debates* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gadis3542.doc.htm

> *This meetings coverage provides a broad overview of the work completed during the First Committee's 70th session. Delegates may find this helpful in identifying the content of various resolutions, including the debates around resolution content. The coverage also includes voting procedure results, including amendments, debates, and final voting number, as well as statements by individual Member States, which delegates may find useful in researching their state's policies.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, November 4). *Speakers in First Committee Decry Destructive Force of Indiscriminate Weapons While Some Defend Need for National Protection, Approving 11 More Drafts* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gadis3540.doc.htm

> *This release discusses the resolutions passed under the convention weapons cluster. In addition to introducing and discussing the resolutions themselves, this record highlights the continued threat conventional weapons pose to international peace and security, and the need for renewed action to combat them. Finally, the record discusses existent tensions between national security provisions and general disarmament actions, which may help delegates understand some of the current debates in this topic.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, October 28). *Speakers Urge Action on Membership Expansion, Adopting Balanced Work Programme of Disarmament Conference, as First Committee Concludes Debate on Key Forums* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gadis3535.doc.htm

> *This meetings coverage provides insight into the institutional mechanisms that impact topical progress in the work of the UN. Delegates may gain a deeper understanding of the overlapping mechanisms within the UN system, such as the Conference on Disarmament, and how it interacts with the General Assembly. The release also discusses opportunity for the revitalization of the CD through practical measures, such as membership expansion.*

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United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (A/RES/70/29)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/29

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United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (A/RES/70/54)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/54

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I. Cyber Security and Protecting against Cyber Warfare

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has continued to discuss cyber security and the threat of cyber warfare. Cyber warfare is becoming more prevalent, with both state actors and non-state actors utilizing it in numerous conflicts.[23] Various aspects of this topic were considered over the past few months, including a high-level review of implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and associated side-events.[24] Thus, cyber security and cyber warfare are broad topics that require increased attention in an increasingly connected world, and recent action taken by United Nations (UN) agencies and Member States provide the foundation for future actions.

The General Assembly High-level Meeting on the review of the overall implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) occurred at UN Headquarters from 15 to 16 December 2015.[25] The outcome document of WSIS+10 outlines the topics that were discussed and provides substantive guidelines for pertinent topics going forward.[26] The areas highlighted by this review expand upon concepts presented in the original 2005 WSIS outcome document, as well as tailor them for the growing role of information and communication technology (ICT) in present-day society.[27] Additionally, multiple side events occurred during this meeting, hosted by consulates and other organizations, to address thematic areas including sustainable development, the exchange of best practices, and international peace and security in cyberspace.[28]

In mid-2015, the "Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security" outlined existing and potential threats to the ICT field.[29] Those recommendations included an emphasis on the peaceful use of ICT, the importance of capacity building, and the convening of another Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in 2016 to further examine this topic.[30] As an example of actions taken to strengthen the ICT field, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) released standards for cloud computing in November 2015.[31] Increased attention is being brought to cloud computing and the unique challenges faced in relation to cyber security and potential cyber warfare uses, as the increased use of commercial and personal cloud-based technology leads to an increased possibility of data theft.[32] Also in 2015, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence released a report entitled "Insider Threat Detection Study," which connects to topics related to cyber security.[33]

Various Member States and regional organizations have also begun to focus more heavily on cyber security, particularly in the broader context of cooperation and the exchange of best practices. The European Parliament issued a report in November 2015 on cyber security in the European Union (EU) and the current actions being taken by both EU and non-EU countries.[34] This report examines current threats and trends and also outlines programs that

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[23] Sigholm, *Non-state Actors in Cyberspace Operations,* 2013; Wilhelmsen, *Soft War in Cyberspace: How Syrian non-state actors use hacking to influence the conflict's battle of narratives,* 2014.

[24] UN WSIS+10, *ITU: Strengthening the Impact of WSIS Action Lines for Sustainable Development: Showcasing Best Practices, Transferring Know-how, and Fostering Partnerships,* 2015.

[25] UN General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (A/RES/70/125),* 2015.

[26] Ibid.

[27] ITU, *World Summit on the Information Society Outcome Documents,* 2005.

[28] UN WSIS+10, *ITU: Strengthening the Impact of WSIS Action Lines for Sustainable Development: Showcasing Best Practices, Transferring Know-how, and Fostering Partnerships,* 2015; UNODA, *Side Event on Cybersecurity and the Way Forward,* 2015.

[29] UN General Assembly, *Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/70/174),* 2015.

[30] Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/RES/70/237),* 2015.

[31] ITU, *Series Y: Global Information Infrastructure, Internet Protocol Aspects and Next-Generation Networks (Y.3600),* 2015.

[32] Shue & Lagesse, *Embracing the Cloud for Better Cyber Security*, p. 1.

[33] Kont, et al., *Inside Threat Detection Study*, 2015.

[34] European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies, *Cybersecurity in the European Union and Beyond: Exploring the Threats and Policy Responses,* 2015.

are currently being implemented and planned.[35] EU programs such as Eurojust and the EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) focus on training law enforcement officials and cyber responders on best practices and provide a venue to share information.[36] In addition to discussing domestic EU programs, the report scrutinizes the current state of transnational cooperation.[37]

Similarly, the Australian Cyber Security Centre issued an unclassified report in 2015 regarding current cyber security threats and a comprehensive background on current trends.[38] This report also briefly covers cyber espionage for national security and commercial interests.[39] While this report primarily highlights actions taken by Australia, it provides further context for recent events involving the suspected large-scale, state-sanctioned cyber theft of United States of America government data by China.[40] This event ultimately resulted in the First U.S.-China High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues, held in December 2015 between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China diplomatic and security services.[41] This dialogue resulted in a bilateral agreement that outlines actions to share resources in combating cybercrime and a "hot line mechanism" that ensures that both Member States have immediate access to the other in the event of suspected cyber attacks.[42] Cyber security and cyber warfare have historically been addressed through Member State-centric mechanisms, but recent actions, both positive and negative, taken by Member States and non-state actors highlight the importance of greater collaboration, particularly within regional organizations and through bilateral agreements.

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[35] European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies, *Cybersecurity in the European Union and Beyond: Exploring the Threats and Policy Responses,* 2015.
[36] Ibid., pp. 53-54.
[37] Ibid., p. 83.
[38] Australian Cyber Security Centre, *Australian Cyber Security Centre 2015 Threat Report*, 2015.
[39] Ibid., p. 7.
[40] Bennett, NSA chief says Chinese government encourages cybertheft, *Los Angeles Times*, 2015.
[41] United States of America, *First U.S.-China High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues Summary of Outcomes,* 2015.
[42] Ibid.

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> *This report highlights threats that are being faced by Australia and its current mechanisms in place to address those cyber threats. Threats are outlined and short-term and long-term impacts are highlighted, with particular attention being paid to emerging threats such as commercial cyber espionage. Delegates should utilize this document to further their understanding of relevant threats and should be familiar with the mechanisms available to address those threats.*

European Parliament, Directorate-General for Internal Policies. (2015). *Cybersecurity in the European Union and Beyond: Exploring the Threats and Policy Responses*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/536470/IPOL_STU(2015)536470_EN.pdf
> *This document outlines the current state of cyber-readiness and activities in the European Union, including comparisons to other Member States. This report emphasizes the importance of collaboration amongst Member States and other organizations when facing cyber threats. Delegates should utilize this report as a base for further research into current trends and the EU response, including policy options.*

Kont, M., et al. (2015). *Insider Threat Detection Study.* North Atlantic Treaty Organization Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: https://ccdcoe.org/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdf/Insider_Threat_Study_CCDCOE.pdf
> *Novel threats are being faced as the physical world and cyber world become more intertwined. This NATO report outlines the importance of insider threats, which are threats from internal sources, and their impact on cyber security as a whole. This report provides insight to actions taken within organizations in relation to organizations' and Member States' internal security, but these actions can be further extrapolated to the cyber environment.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015*). Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/70/174)* [Report]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/70/174
> *This document is the result of the General Assembly's request to convene a group of experts on ICT in 2014. The group met in 2015 and its report highlights the threats faced by non-state actors and the use of ICT in combat, including the threat to overall infrastructure. Delegates should pay particular attention to Section III on "Norms, rules and principles for the responsible behavior of States" and Sections IV and V on confidence-building measures and international cooperation to better understand what gaps remain in existing international law and how multilateral approaches can address those gaps.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (A/RES/70/125)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 12 February 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/125
> *This outcome document provides a comprehensive overview of the actions being undertaken by Member States and some private sector actors as well as challenges facing Member States in relation to information exchange and ICT. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of human rights and the exchange of ideas in the growing digital divide. A variety of suggestions are provided for actions going forward, but all are linked with the common theme of sustainability and sustainable development.*

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United Nations, High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. (2015). *ITU: Strengthening the Impact of WSIS Action Lines for Sustainable Development: Showcasing Best Practices, Transferring Know-how, and Fostering Partnerships* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: https://publicadministration.un.org/wsis10/Events/Side-Events/Strengthening-the-impact-of-WSIS-action-lines-for-sustainable-development-showcasing-best-practices-transferring-know-how-fostering-partnerships

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2015). *Side Event on Cybersecurity and the Way Forward* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20151023/

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II. The Threat of Transnational Organized Crime to International Security

Recent Developments

The international community has continued to focus on the issue of transnational organized crime (TOC); during the 70th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) First Committee, the Committee discussed the relationship between TOC and issues including corruption, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit drug trafficking.[43] In October 2015, the Working Group on International Cooperation, as part of the Conference of the Parties to the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UNCTOC), held their sixth session.[44] The Working Group prepared a number of recommendations, including calling on Member States to develop effective information sharing systems, further develop tools for international cooperation, and to use the UNCTOC as a legal source for mutual legal support.[45]

Member States have also addressed coordination efforts against human trafficking and migrant smuggling within the Committee and the Working Groups on each issue.[46] In November 2015, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, also as a part of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCTOC, met in Vienna.[47] Its recommendations proposed a focus on targeting recruitment agencies involved with human trafficking, improving state coordination tools against human trafficking, and identifying and defining key concepts associated with human trafficking.[48] The Working Group on the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants held its third meeting in November 2015, where states discussed the smuggling of migrants from a TOC perspective.[49] Recommendations urged Member States to concentrate on the financial consequences of migrant smuggling; to strengthen their capability to conduct preemptive financial investigations to recover criminal assets involved in the smuggling of migrants; and to implement the UNCTOC and the *Smuggling of Migrants Protocol*.[50]

Furthermore, in collaboration with the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a training session titled "Trans-Regional Training Workshop on Preventing and Combatting the Smuggling of Migrants by Sea affecting the Mediterranean Region" in October 2015.[51] As a result of the workshop, UNODC will offer technical assistance to Member States through capacity building to investigate and prosecute migrant smuggling cases, sharing good practices, and holding workshops to foster cooperation among Member States.[52] In January 2016, the European Union (EU) and UNODC launched Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, a four-year initiative in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) aimed at assisting countries in responding to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.[53]

In relation to this topic, the General Assembly adopted several resolutions in its 70th session that addressed forms of TOC that came on the recommendations of the Third Committee.[54] Concerning human trafficking, the GA adopted resolution 70/179 that called on Member States to better organize and coordinate efforts against human trafficking.[55]

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[43] UNODC, *Stories from UNODC*, 2016.
[44] UN Conference of the Parties to the UNCTOC, *Report on the Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation held in Vienna on 27 and 28 October 2015 (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2015/4),* 2015.
[45] Ibid.
[46] UNODC, *Working Group on Trafficking in Persons,* 2016.
[47] Ibid.
[48] UN Conference of the Parties to the UNCTOC, *Report on the Meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2015/6),* 2015.
[49] UNODC, *Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants,* 2016.
[50] UN Conference of the Parties to the UNCTOC, *Report on the meeting of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held in Vienna from 18 to 20 November 2015 (CTOC/COP/WG.7/2015/6),* 2015.
[51] Italian Development Cooperation, *Trans-Regional Training Workshop on Preventing and Combating the Smuggling of Migrants by Sea Affecting the Mediterranean Region,* 2015.
[52] Ibid.
[53] UNODC, *New Multi-Year Initiative Launched to Step Up Global Response to Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants,* 2016.
[54] UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders*, 2015.
[55] Ibid.

Further, the GA adopted resolution 70/147, which promotes the protection of human rights for all migrants.[56] Further building on this was the Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (70/160), which reinforced the need to tackle illicit trafficking as a means of securing disarmament goals in the region.[57]

Member States have also continued to address the role corruption plays in TOC. The Conference of the States Parties (COSP6) to the *UN Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC) held its sixth session in November 2015.[58] This session reinforced the importance of eliminating corruption in light of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[59] Ten resolutions, which focused on topics such as international cooperation, asset recovery, and implementation of the UNCAC, were adopted during the session.[60] In addition, International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated on 9 December 2015; it focused on the effects of corruption, particularly on how corruption weakens democracy and the rule of law and is often a precursor for organized crime.[61]

Illicit drug trafficking has also been on the agenda for the international community. At a high-level meeting in Vienna in December, a new Afghan National Action Plan was introduced to address drug trafficking; it focused on sustainable development and reducing demand for drugs.[62] Members at the meeting discussed strategies to improve regional cooperation to combat drug trafficking and TOC.[63] Furthermore, the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) will be held in April 2016, where Member States will discuss progress on drug supply and demand reduction strategies as outlined in the 2009 *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.[64] In preparation for this, the GA adopted resolution 70/181 in January 2016.[65]

TOC is a growing issue for the international community, and addressing the issues of corruption, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit drug trafficking are essential to combatting TOC in general. The General Assembly has addressed some aspects of TOC, like migrant smuggling. The recent developments made by the international community are crucial for addressing TOC, particularly in light of the significance TOC plays in achieving the SDGs.

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[56] UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders*, 2015.

[57] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General: Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (A/70/160)*, 2015.

[58] UNODC, *Sixth Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,* 2016.

[59] UNIS, *Sixth Session of the Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (COSP6) Reinforces Message that Corruption's Elimination is Essential to the New Sustainable Development Agenda,* 2015.

[60] COSP6, *Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its Sixth Session, Held in St. Petersburg from 2 to 6 November 2015 (CAC/COSP/2015/10),* 2015.

[61] UNODC, *About the Campaign,* 2016.

[62] UNODC, *Partners Meet to Discuss Action Plan against Illicit Drugs in Afghanistan,* 2015.

[63] Ibid.

[64] UNODC, *About the UNGASS,* 2016.

[65] UN General Assembly, *Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem to be Held in 2016 (A/RES/70/181)*, 2015.

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> *This report focuses on the third meeting of the Working Group on the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants. The smuggling of migrants is a top priority for the international community, given the current crisis with refugees and migrants. By focusing on financial assets and investigations along with the implementation of the UNCTOC protocol on the smuggling of migrants, TOC in the form of migrant smuggling can be eliminated. Delegates are encouraged to keep this in mind when coming up with solutions to stop the smuggling of migrants.*

United Nations, Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. (2015). *Report of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its sixth session, held in St. Petersburg from 2 to 6 November 2015 (CAC/COSP/2015/10).* Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: https://undocs.org/CAC/COSP/2015/10

> *This report outlines the 10 resolutions adopted at the Sixth Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. These resolutions are exemplary of the action being taken by the international community to limit corruption. Delegates should be familiar with the issues discussed in these resolutions in their research, as it will be helpful in identifying key areas that can be improved to combat corruption.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 17). *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 30 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11745.doc.htm

> *This meetings coverage offers delegates a look at the meetings coverage from the General Assembly's 80th meeting in the 70th session. Various draft resolutions and resolutions were adopted in this meeting that concern different forms of TOC, including migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. Though this reflects the work of the Third Committee, delegates are encouraged to use this source to familiarize themselves with the work the GA is doing to combat such crimes, and also to begin thinking about what more can be done to address TOC and create linkages back to the work of the First Committee.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem to be Held in 2016 (A/RES/70/181)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/491). Retrieved 30 January 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/181

> *This resolution outlines the preparations for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem to be held in April 2016, including the different roundtables that Member States will be participating in at the special session. Along with supply and demand reduction strategies, roundtables will focus on addressing the drug problem in compliance with international law and promoting international cooperation. In anticipation for UNGASS 2016, delegates should have knowledge of these issues and potential ways to address them.*

United Nations Information Services. (2015). *Sixth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (COSP6) reinforces message that corruption's elimination is essential to the new sustainable development agenda (UNIS/CP/887)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2015/uniscp887.html

> *The press release from the sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC highlights the importance of addressing corruption in light of the SDGs. SDG 16, promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, is particularly significant, since this is impossible where corruption is prevalent. Delegates should keep the SDGs in mind when focusing on eliminating corruption.*

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 17). *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders (GA/11745)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 30 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11745.doc.htm

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III. Efforts to Control Weapons of Mass Destruction

Recent Developments

Efforts to control weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are an ongoing priority for members of the First Committee. In recent months, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) held its 70th session and addressed WMDs in several resolutions; the UN 1540 Committee provided recommendations for increased cooperation between the committee and other international organizations to the Security Council; the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held its 20th session; and the European Union (EU) strengthened its focus on preparing to ward off chemical or biological attacks. In addition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a nuclear detonation, purportedly from a hydrogen bomb, in a clear violation of its UN agreements.[66]

During its 70th session, the GA adopted a number of resolutions regarding all types of WMDs, including 23 on nuclear weapons alone.[67] GA resolution 70/74 on the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction* highlights the importance of transparency and inclusivity for the Eighth Review Conference to be held in December 2016.[68] Other resolutions addressed the myriad types of WMDs and their consequences, including resolution 70/70 on "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East," resolution 70/47 on "The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons," and resolution 70/41 on " Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction."[69] Key to the session, the GA adopted resolution 70/57, which contained the *Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*.[70] This Declaration not only calls upon all Member States to eliminate nuclear weapons through a phased process, but it also reaffirms that nuclear weapons are a "threat to the very survival of humankind" and that their use is "in contravention of the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations."[71]

In other efforts to control WMDs, Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the 1540 Committee that "imposes binding obligations on states to…prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons," briefed the Security Council on 22 December 2015, stating that effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 remains dependent on capacity and international assistance becoming available.[72] Increased cooperation between the 1540 Committee and other international organizations has increased the amount of funding within the last year and is projected to do the same in 2016.[73] This cooperation has been beneficial in a number of ways, including the exchange of ideas and information with representatives from the OPCW and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit participating in multiple regional events.[74]

The OPCW convened for its 20th session (C-20) from 30 November to 4 December 2015 in The Hague.[75] The OPCW Executive Council expressed "grave concern" over the confirmed use of chemical weapons in Syria during August 2015.[76] A report compiled by the OPCW after its September fact-finding mission in Syria noted the evolving dangers of chemical weapons based on the change from using chlorine gas to the more deadly sulfur mustard gas.[77]

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[66] UN DPI, *Security Council Press Statement on Nuclear Test Conducted by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (SC/12191-DC/3600)*, 2016.

[67] UN DPI, *On Recommendation of First Committee, General Assembly Adopts More than 50 Drafts, Including New One on 'Ethical Imperatives" for Nuclear Disarmament (GA/11735)*, 2015.

[68] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/70/74)*, 2015.

[69] UN General Assembly, *The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (A/RES/70/70)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons (A/RES/70/47)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/70/41)*, 2015.

[70] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World (A/RES/70/57)*, 2015.

[71] Ibid.

[72] UN Security Council 1540 Committee, *Briefing of the Security Council by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi Chair, 1540 Committee 22 December 2015,* 2015.

[73] Ibid.

[74] Ibid.

[75] OPCW, *Documents of the Conference of the States Parties,* 2015.

[76] Godfrey, et al., Use of chemical weapons continues in Syria, *IHS Jane's Intelligence Review*, 2016.

[77] Ibid.

Additionally, the report highlighted the rising danger of non-state actors obtaining and using WMDs in indicating that the use of chemical weapons in Syria has "changed from a strategic deterrent capability of the state to a tool for inflicting tactical and psychological damage by non-state actors."[78] Also during the 20th session, Libya provided an annual report on the progress of the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons, which is currently on-track to meet the planned December 2016 completion date.[79] Increased international aid from the OPCW, cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and financial assistance from Canada has created a largely successful model for the disarmament and destruction of chemical weapons.[80]

In addition to international actions, Member States have also sought to control and protect against WMDs through regional organizations. A December 2015 briefing of the European Parliament by the WMD Non-Proliferation Centre warned that the EU should prepare itself for the possibility of a chemical or biological attack by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), considering chemical weapons were used by ISIL in Syria and Iraq in 2015.[81] Centre Director Wolfgang Rudischhauser acknowledged "ISIL actually has already acquired the knowledge…that would allow it to use [chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear] materials as weapons of terror."[82]

While the danger of non-state actors acquiring and using WMDs has risen in prominence, dangers from state actors also persist. On 6 January 2016, the DPRK's domestic news service reported that a test of a hydrogen bomb occurred with "complete success."[83] Following a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council, the body stated that it stands ready to take "further significant measures" should the DPRK conduct another nuclear test.[84] According to Council President Elbio Rosseli of Uruguay, the members of the Security Council strongly condemned this test as a "clear violation" of previous Security Council resolutions.[85] While there is widespread uncertainty over whether the DPRK tested a hydrogen bomb, all members of the Security Council have stated that denuclearization of the DPRK should be a priority.[86] Additionally, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made statements calling the action "profoundly destabilizing for regional security," and demanded that the DPRK "cease any further nuclear activities and meet its obligations for verifiable denuclearization."[87] As the threat of WMDs continues to grow in many regions, only multilateral agreements and cooperation can reduce that threat.

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[78] Godfrey, et al., Use of chemical weapons continues in Syria, *IHS Jane's Intelligence Review*, 2016.

[79] OPCW, *Report of the twentieth session of the conference of the States Parties 30 November-4 December 2015 (C-20/5)*, 2015.

[80] Ibid.

[81] European Parliament, *Briefing December 2015: ISIL/ Da'esh and 'non-conventional' weapons of terror*, 2015.

[82] Ibid.

[83] Rothwell & Crilly, North Korea claims successful 'hydrogen bomb' test, world reacts with condemnation and suspicion, *The Telegraph*, 2016.

[84] UN DPI, *Security Council Press Statement on Nuclear Test Conducted by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (SC/12191-DC/3600)*, 2016.

[85] Ibid.

[86] Lederer, North Korea Says Nuclear Test Shows It could 'Wipe Out' US, *Military.com*, 2016.

[87] Tomale, United Nations Security Council to Increase Sanctions On North Korea After It Reportedly Performed a Hydrogen Bomb Test*, Korea Portal*, 2016.

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> *The European Parliament discussed many issues pertinent to WMDs within its December 2015 briefing, including the possibility that ISIL may possess and use chemical weapons within the EU. Following terrorist attacks in Paris, France, several more threats were issued and security has risen drastically across Europe. This briefing will be crucial to delegates moving forward for understanding current security risks in all areas of the globe and means in which the international community can do more.*

Klinger, B. (2016, January 7). North Korea Claims Successful H-Bomb Nuclear Test – Analysis. *Eurasia Review*. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: http://www.eurasiareview.com/07012016-north-korea-claims-successful-h-bomb-nuclear-test-analysis/

> *This journal article was written by a senior research fellow for Northeast Asia in the Asian Studies Center of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy. While written from an American perspective and predominately discusses actions that the United States of America and the Republic of Korea should take, this article can also be viewed more broadly to understand a number of potential actions to be taken through the UN system. Delegates will find this piece particularly helpful for understanding concrete measures in which the international community can and should react to control WMDs in emerging situations.*

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2015). *Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2014 (C-20/4)*. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CSP/C-20/en/c2004_e_.pdf

> *This 2014 report from the OPCW is the most recent update on the status of chemical weapons worldwide. This document is essential to understanding regional and individual state threats as well as areas in which the UN may consider additional sanctions or support. Delegates will find this document to be of assistance when looking for methods of destruction and disarmament that have been helpful, such as the National Authority Mentorship Programme, thus providing examples for forward progress. That understanding of what measures have succeeded and what measures have not led to progress is key when crafting new measures for controlling WMDs.*

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2015). *Report of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties 30 November-4 December 2015 (C-20/5)*. Retrieved 28 December 2015 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CSP/C-20/en/c2005_e_.pdf

> *The OPCW met 30 November to 4 December; while many procedural matters occurred, including the election of new members to the Executive Council, a number of substantively important processes occurred as well, like monitoring global disarmament progress. This report is essential to understanding individual Member State roles in the efforts to disarm, as well as the progress that has been made thus far. Delegates should use this document to understand current actions taken by the OPCW to control chemical weapons and use that information to evaluate additional actions that can be taken.*

United Nations, Security Council, 1540 Committee. (2015). *Briefing of the Security Council by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi Chair, 1540 Committee 22 December 2015* [Statement]. Retrieved 30 December 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/reports-and-briefings/pdf/statement.chair.sc.22dec15.pdf

> *Similar to the previous OPCW report, this briefing to the Security Council is an essential summary of the current status of WMD disarmament in accordance with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). This report contains recommendations by the Chair of the 1540 Committee, and therefore cannot be taken lightly. Delegates should be fully aware of the contents of this report, including the upcoming 2016 Nuclear Security Conference and the ongoing "Wiesbaden Process."*

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